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AZA KHEL REFUGEE CAMP.

The population of Afghanistan is estimated to be 15/20 million spread over an area of 253861 square miles having 1500 miles Common border with Pakistan.

The consecutive revolutions in Afghanistan, followed by the Political, Social, Cultural and Religious supression coupled with ruthless attitude of Kabul Administration and the Alien forces which created an atmosphere of complete insecurity and general scare forced the Afghan Nationals to migrate and seek refugee in Pakistan.

The first batch of Afghan refugees which crossed over to Pakistan in 1976 (during Daud's Regime) was 1,500. This number rose to 18,329 by the end of December 1978. Afterwards the trickle developed into a torrent and by 31st October 1981 the number rose to 1906826 in the N. W. F. P., Province.

To accommodate and provide basic relief items on purely humanitarian grounds, the Government of Pakistan established a number of refugee camps along the 1500 miles long Pak-Afghan Border.



Aza Khel is one of the biggest and thickly populated refugee camp in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. It is located 24 Kilometers East of the Provincial Capital Peshawar on Pindi Road. Aza Khel Refugee Camp consists of two Refugee Tentage Villages having a total Population of 16828 registered individuals as on 31st October 1981.



Aza Khel Refugee Camp was established in February 1980 when the inflow of refugees from Afghanistan assumed alarming proportion. From 5252 in February 1980, the number rose to 16828 in October 1981. The increase in population in Aza Khel Camp is shown in the chart below:—

		Male	Female	Total Population.
Feb.	1980	2245	3007	5252
June	1980	2310	3101	5411
Dec.	1980	6137	6340	12,477
June	1981	9741	7087	16,828
Oct.	1981	9741	7087	16,828

To facilitate Proper administration and speedy distribution of relief assistance two RTVs (Refufee Tentage Villages) have been established in the camp. Each RTV constitute the basic administrative unit looking after a minimum of 5000 Refugees or 1000 families. An RTV is placed under the RTV Administrator who is responsible in all respects for the Administration, Welfare, Discipline, Distribution of Cash Maintenance Allowance and other relief items, etc., of refugees in the RTV.

The RTV Administrator is assisted by the staff working under him which consists of six sections, viz., Administration, Section, Registration Section, Food Section, Relief Section, Accounts Section and Security Section.

ETHNIC COMPLEXION OF THE CAMP.

The Afghan Refugees have come from different provinces of

Afghanistan and the main tribal grouping are Nooristani, Tajiks, Mishwanis, Salarzai, Kohistani, Gujars, Badakhshi, Safi, Ahmedzai, Shinwari, Mamund, Mohmand, Khogiani, Ghilgai, Hazara, Mangal, Jaji, Zadran, Sabri Suleman Khel, Qandaharis, Uzbeks and Turkmans. In this particular camp the refugees are from the Pushto Speaking tribes of Afghanistan in the proportion explained below:—



S. No.	TRIBE	PROVINCE	POPULATION
1.	Ahmed Zai	Jalalabad	6985
2.	Zadran	Gardez & Puktia.	1843

Being in the Refugees Camps in Pakistan, the refugees still observe their own traditional laws and implement them through the Jirga System. The decisions made in Jirga by the elders of the tribes are acceptable to all.

RELIEF ASSISTANCE.

During the initial stages of refugees influx, relief assistance consisted mainly of cash subsidy (Rs. 120.00 per head per month) and provision of tents for shelter and only the Government of Pakistan bore the burden of refugees care single handed during this period. In the beginning of 1980, two major U. N



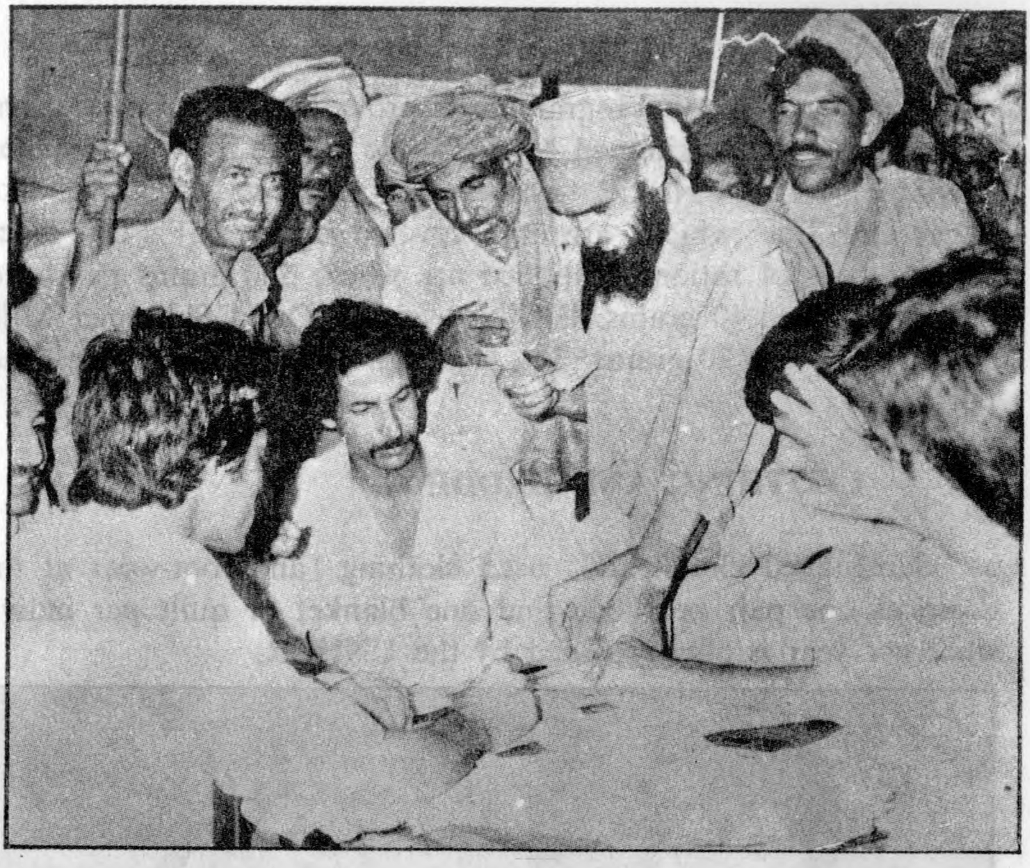


Agencies, the UNHCR and W. F. P., produced their programme of assistance. Later, some other U. N. Agencies like UNICEF, WHO & FAO also joined and are providing assistance in their respective fields. The relief operations have received additional contribution from some of the International Voluntary Agencies and a number of friendly countries. The main financial assistance has been provided by the UNHCR whose representatives work in the entire province and co-ordinate with the functionaries of the Commissionerate at various levels.

The relief assistance may be categorised as under:—

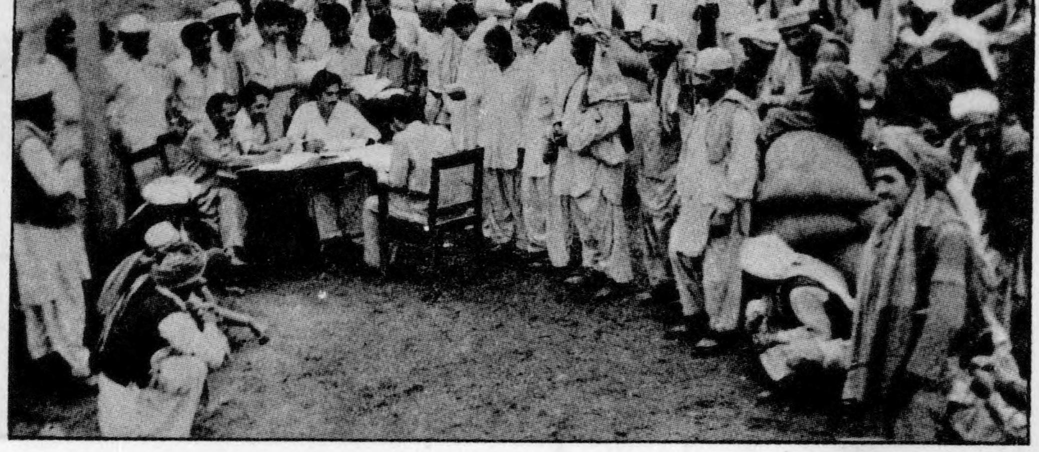
1. **CASH MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE.**

Cash maintenance allowance @ Rs. 50/- per head per month upto the maximum of Rs. 500/- per family is distributed from the Budget of Government of Pakistan.



2. SHELTER.

The UNHCR is providing shelter in the from of tents, tarpaulins, C. G. I. Sheets and other construction material for temporary mud huts. One tent of 180 Lbs. accommodate 5 to 7 persons. Temporary mud huts are encouraged to avoid the rigours of extreme wheather.

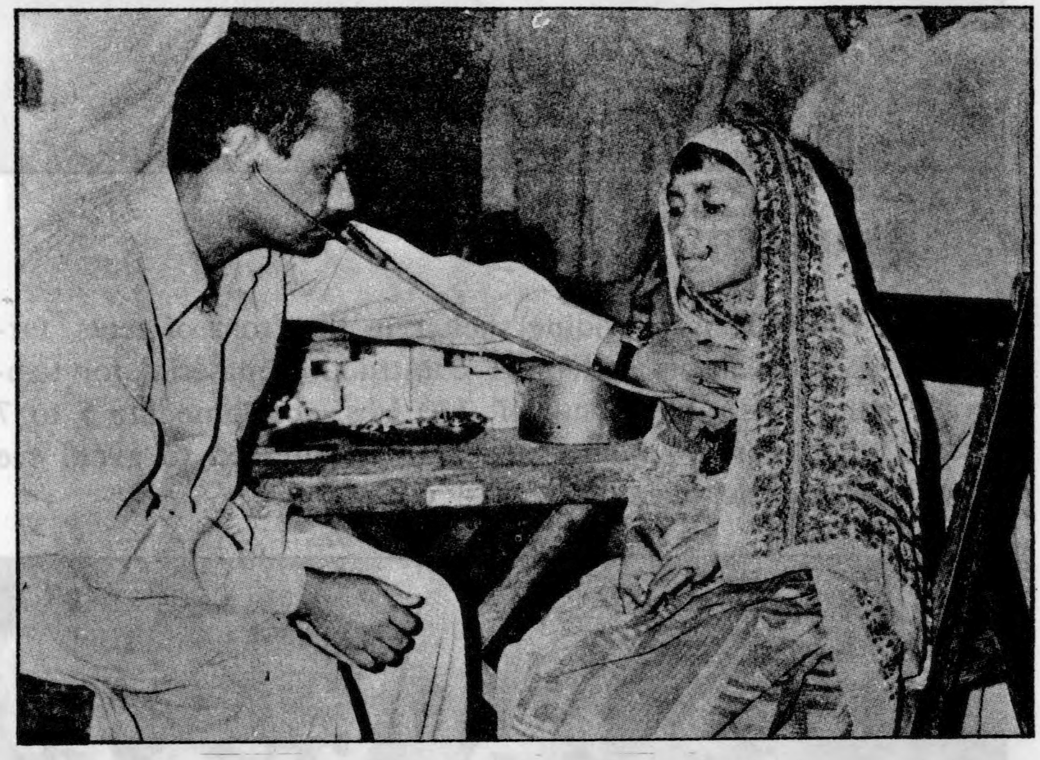


3. FOOD.

The World Food Programme is providing basic food rations like wheat, Dried Skimmed Milk, Edible Oil and Pulses. (When abailable). The UNHCR provides supplement food items like Sugar and Tea which are not covered by W. F. P.. Daily per capita scales of rations supplied are wheat 500 grams per head per day, pulses 40 grams, E/Oil 30 grams, Dried Skimmed Milk 30 grams, Sugar 20 grams, Tea 3 grams, Salt 2½ grams per head per day.

4. CLOTHING AND BEDDING.

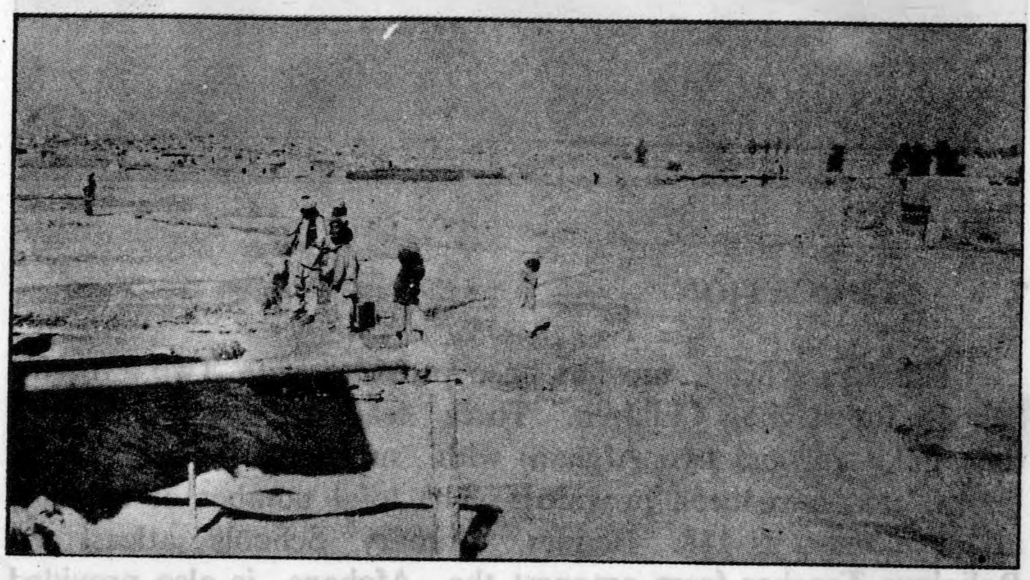
Unstitched cloth and used clothing and foot-wear at the scale of one pair per head and one blanket or quilt per individual per year is also provided by the UNHCR.





5. MEDICARE.

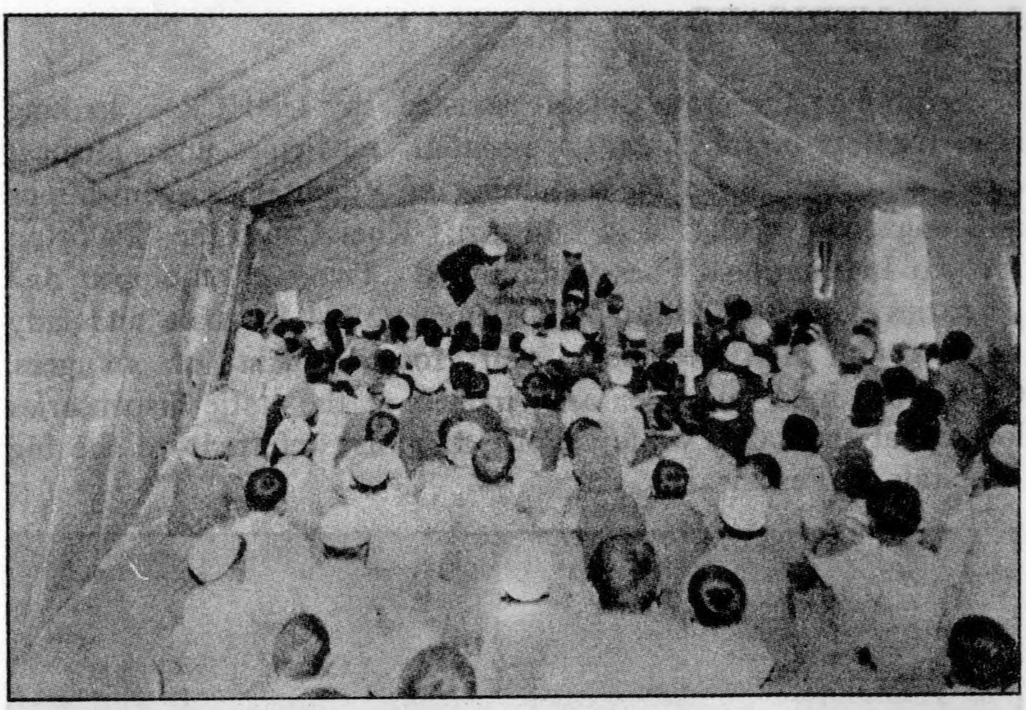
Although the Government assisted by UNHCR is looking after medical establishments, essential medicines and medical equipment, etc., there are a number of Voluntary Organizations also engaged in this field. In Aza Khel Camp the "Pakistan Medico International" has established Two well equipped dispensaries besides Mobile Health Units staffed by male and lady doctors with allied technical staff for treatment of refugees. Cases of mild disease are treated at the static dispensaries located at the camp while serious cases are referred to the big hospitals in Peshawar.



6. DRINKING WATER.

Drinking water Schemes are undertaken by UNICEF through relevant Provincial Departments. Water tankers have been engaged for this purpose, besides tube-wells and open surface wells, etc.





7. EDUCATION.

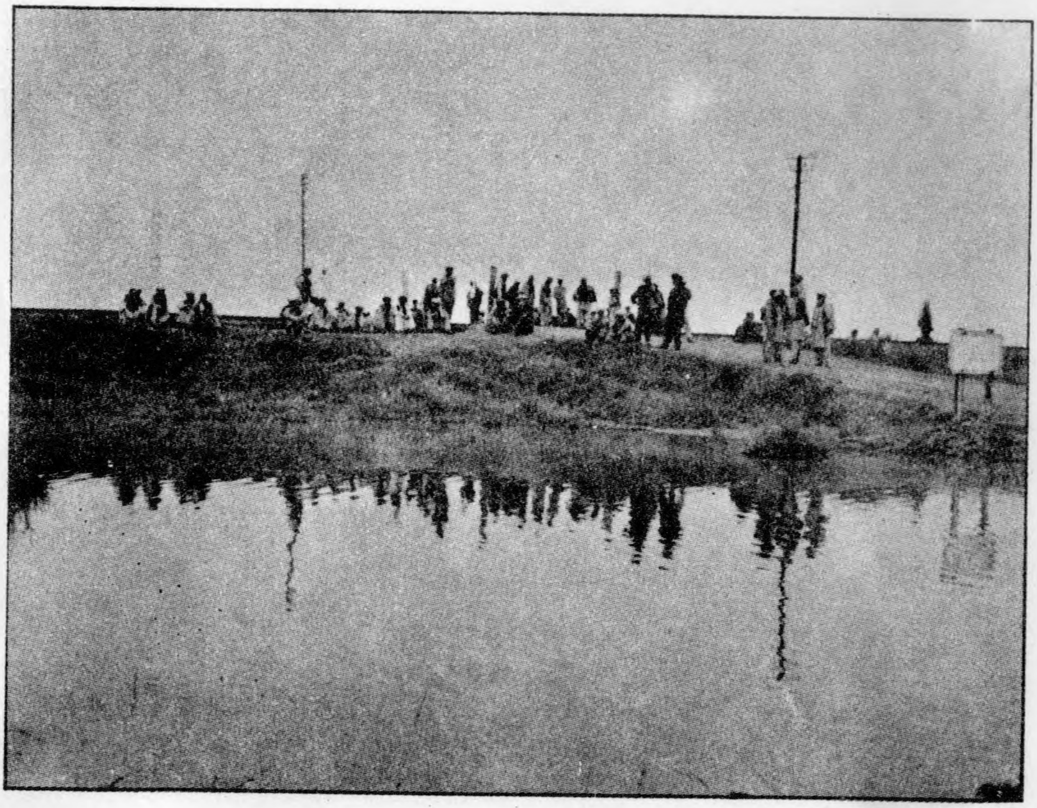
The Aza Khel Camp has been provided with Two Primary Schools for Afghan Children. Three teachers for each school (one Pakistani and two Afghan) with sufficient stationery, text-books, etc., have been provided. The total number of students at the moment is 148. Besides, Primary Schools atleast one Religious Teacher from amongst the Afghans is also provided for each village alongwith necessary material in the Central Mosque of the Village. The Education Cell headed by the Additional Commissioner of Afghan Refugees Commissionerate is looking after the Primary education of Afghan Refugee's Children.

8. LIVE STOCK.

Other items not covered above are the live-stock and Veterinary cover, Hygine and Sanitation which include sanitary Inspector with necessary spraying equipment and chemicals for periodical spray.

9. MOSQUES.

Two mosques in each village have been set up to facilitate the refugees in the performance of their religious obligations.



10. COOKING OIL STOVE AND KEROSENE OIL.

To save the forest whealth, each Refugee family has been supplied with one oil stove, one plastic container of 10 liters each. They are also provided with 9 liters of Kerosene Oil per family per month. The funds for this project have been provided by the UNHCR.



AZAKHEL REFUGEES CAMP

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

AZA KHEL REFUGEE CAMP.